

JOURNAL

OF THE

BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

Vol. V. No. 40

June, 1943

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BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS COUNCIL

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OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

(a) To encourage the study of all matters connected with the perception of radiation by the human organism with or without an instrument.

(b) To spread information amongst members, by means of a journal, lectures and other means, about the use of dowsing for geophysical, medical and agricultural and other purposes and for tracing objects animate or inanimate.

(c) To keep a register of dowsers for water, minerals, oil, and for other purposes.

RULES OF THE SOCIETY

I.—Membership.

The Society is open to all persons interested in radiation-perception. The Council has power to appoint honorary members.

II.—Subscription.

The subscription is five shillings per annum, or three guineas for a life member.*

III.—Management.

The Society will be managed by a Council consisting of a President, who will act as Chairman, and five members, one of whom will act as Treasurer and Secretary.

The President and members will be replaced as necessary by the Council, appointments being confirmed at a General Meeting.

All questions regarding the publication of the journal, lectures, meetings, etc., will be settled by the Council.

Decisions of the Council will be arrived at by correspondence if necessary, the facts being recorded in the Minute Book.

Decisions will be decided by a majority vote, the Chairman having a casting vote.

The Council has power to co-opt other members for special purposes.

IV.—Accounts.

The financial year will be from July 1st to June 30th.

Accounts will be published annually within two months after the end of the financial year.

Accounts will be audited privately.

V.—General Meeting.

A General Meeting will be held annually, and other meetings when considered necessary by the Council.

* Pending a revision of the rates of subscription, no more life members are being accepted at present.



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NOTICES

May 4th was the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Society.

* * * * *

A lecture was given by Dr. Eric Perkins on the methods of Dr. Albert Abrams on Wednesday, April 14th, at the rooms of The Royal Asiatic Society, 74 Grosvenor Street, W.1. Because of the difficulties of travelling, notices of the lecture were not sent to members living far from London. It is hoped that the lecture, which was of great interest, will be published shortly.

* * * * *

The first journal of the Medical Society of Radiesthesia can be obtained from Dr. Guyon Richards, 9 Fordington Road, Highgate, N.6, at the price of 2s. 6d., postage 2d. extra. A cheque or Postal Order for 2s. 8d. should accompany the order.

* * * * *

The price of *Journals* to non-members is 1s. 3d.

The price of new *Journals* in excess of the free number, and of old *Journals* to members is 9d. and 6d. respectively.

Six free copies of the *Journal* will be given on request to writers of articles in it in addition to the usual copy.

* * * * *

Messrs. Devine and Co. Ltd., St. Stephen's Road, Old Ford, London, E.3, supply pendulums of whale ivory with central suspension and cavity for same at 7s. 6d. each; also nickel-silver and copper angle rods, together with whalebone rods in desired dimensions of flat, square or circular section.

* * * * *

The Society's badges can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary. Owing to the increased cost of postage the price is now 1s. 3d. post free.

* * * * *

Communications for the Editor, and inquiries, should be sent to Colonel A. H. Bell, York House, Portugal Street, London, W.C.2.

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-

DEPTHING OF STRATA BY MEANS OF SAMPLES

All dowers may not realise that it should be possible to find out the thicknesses of the various strata below any particular spot if they know what strata are to be encountered and can provide themselves with samples of each type, using an elaboration of the late Major R. Creyke's (B.S.D.) depthing technique.

Mr. Maby has sent us the following interesting record of observations taken on two different occasions over a small underground stream feeding an old domestic well in his garden at Bourton-on-the-Hill. Incidentally, this well had been depthed before opening by Creyke's point-depth method, with a result showing a depth of 26½ ft. with 3 ft. of water. The actual depth as plumbed after opening was 26 ft. and 3 ft. of water.

The spot where the main observations were taken was at a level higher than that of the well by some 20 feet. The strata are nearly horizontal and are found outcropping on the slope of the hill; hence the lesser depth of the stream at the actual well.

The samples were collected in 1938 from debris out of a trench for a new drainage scheme, and are lettered "A" to "J," being enclosed in powdered form in a number of exactly similar glass tubes.

The first set of readings was obtained early in 1939 when radiation was naturally somewhat strong, a simple copper rod being used as a "point" and the samples being used in their appropriate sequence from ground level downwards. Much time and care were expended, and the observations were repeated several times until all the samples had been allocated to the successive Creyke depthing circles thrown out by the "point" and their relative widths (corresponding to vertical thicknesses) carefully measured. To do so, slow side-stepping up to each reaction band was used, with most tension in one (the nearest) arm, which tends to give sharper location.

The second set of readings was taken on December 13th, 1942, long after the first readings had been forgotten, save for the approximate depth of the stream. The samples were shuffled and taken at random, without visual examination, and so not necessarily in their appropriate sequence as on the first occasion. Instead of a simple Creyke rod Mr. Maby used his new aperiodic electric oscillator with a vertical aerial and earth spike, working at several thousand volts, as the natural radiation was very weak. His object was to compare the effect of the oscillator with that of a simple Creyke point.

The second set of readings was taken in fifteen minutes, far more quickly than the first, and the three different limestone beds, C, D and E, were taken as one group, since they had been found to be too similar to deserve separate treatment or samples.

	<i>Depth Readings in Feet.</i>	
	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>
A. Dark loam top soil	1½	2
B. Red clay	3	4
C. Hard crystalline limestone	2	} 10
D. Softer yellower limestone	1½	
E. Very hard, still yellower and partly crystalline limestone	6	
F. Soft yellow sandstone (a wet bed)	2	3
G. Hard dense crystalline limestone with brown streaks	14	14
H. Clay (Middle Lias ?), grey with yellow ferruginous streaks	16	12
I. Fine brown sand bed containing the stream	2	3
J. Blue clay (Lower Lias) from here downwards		

Total . . . 48ft. . 48ft.

Bed F gave moderate reaction for water, but no flow effect. After very heavy rain a sandy bed at 16-18 feet below ground level of the lawn, where these readings were taken, drips water into two nearby cuttings into the hillside—a nice confirmation, though only found since these depths were estimated.

The general agreement in the two sets of readings indicates the reliability of this technique, which has been used successfully by Mr. Maby in commercial prospection since 1939. The artificial energiser appears to strengthen the natural fields without causing spurious or erroneous effects. The instrument in question combines a vertical magnetic field with fairly intense electronic ground energisation and a vertical aerial corresponding to Creyke's depthing point or mumetal rod. Details of its construction and use will be published later when it has been more fully tested and improved.

Dowers are invited to report the results of experiments on the same lines. But they should note that depths by Creyke's (and other) methods often require some percentage addition, owing, apparently, to inward refraction of the reaction bands by intermediate strata such as wet clay and sand beds. As much as 20 per cent. (or one-fifth) commonly has to be added, according to Mr. Maby's experience; though the Creyke depths appear to have been fairly reliable in the present case.

DIVINER AND GEOLOGIST

By G. AUSTIN BROWNE, F.G.S.

During many years' association with a diviner, in partnership with him in a water supply engineers' business, it has been made quite obvious that a real partnership and co-operation can exist between a geologist and diviner, which is capable of producing successful results. It may be said that a diviner should not need the services or advice of a geologist in matters of economic divining, and that he can make his findings alone. This attitude is foolish, and if the funds of the partnership are not to be risked it is the duty of each partner to avail himself of the skill of the other. Either can work independently if need be, in the field.

The skill of the diviner must rest with his ability to produce the commodity searched for, in the quantity required, finding it at, or closely approximating to, the estimated depth. It is no use telling a client that he can be provided with a job costing him hundreds of pounds if there are only tens of pounds available, which is another way of telling him that it will be necessary to go to a great depth, or that it will be necessary to have a large well to give sufficient storage for the small quantity of water he will get.

Skill is different from success in matters of water finding. The finding of water can be accomplished by means of a bore or well put down, one might almost say, anywhere. Success must be bound up in quantity, for while water may be found by the bucketful, or in sufficient quantity to provide the daily requirement of a cottager, it would not suffice for a factory requiring, say, 5,000 gallons an hour. The diviner would have found the water, and in a sense have been successful. The geologist would undoubtedly have ignored the possibility of exploiting the water in question for the factory, and would have considered a deeper-seated supply, having regard to purity and regularity of supply.

In connection with purity, it is certainly the fact that most waters encountered at or near the surface are questionable. The quality of waters at times encountered in clay formations is also open to doubt, for they may be impregnated with mineral salts and debris, and have carried down with them the pollution collected on the surface, arriving eventually in the bore or well without having undergone any form of filtering. Here the advice of a geologist concerning the nature of the underlying strata and formations should be obtained. He can advise on matters such as porosity, extent and distance of outcrop, the likely mineral constituents of the strata, the presence and extent of faulting, and the structure of the neighbourhood, in the decisions affecting the choice of a site. He will follow up the previous examination of a geological map with a keen eye to the surface indications, such as escarpments, quarries, springs, hills and valleys, and

sum everything up in giving his opinion. If there are available reliable records of wells and bores he will certainly study them. Neither geologist nor diviner should be expected to name either the exact depth to water or the quantity available, though both will be able to give a very near idea as to the quantity that can be expected from a given sized bore with the pumping method to be installed, which is requirement and financial consideration. The latter must always be the deciding factor, and will control the quantity of water which can be produced, no matter how fully charged with water the site may be.

The writer has encountered sufficient evidence to prove that reactions experienced by diviners are not always to be attributed to water, and that an element of doubt exists that water is present under a given spot. A diviner will be likely to say that water is present, for he is "thinking water." The failure eventually to find the water may be explained by his having located a break in the continuity of the stratum. This is a cause of reaction; the writer has noticed it in actual practice, and it was proved in the subsequent bore, from the lining tube of which emerged a draught considerably in excess of that exerted by a domestic chimney of similar size and of a height not much different than the depth of the bore. With a change of direction of the wind there was a suction into the bore. There was no water. The existence of the underground passage was not known or even suspected. Deepening the bore on the advice of a geologist produced water, but at a shallower depth than expected, and in a far smaller quantity than was required. Any reactions due to this water, in spite of its quite strong flow, had not been detected by the diviner. The geologist had placed too much reliance upon the local formation, in spite of its usual good character, and possibly the Geological Survey had a big surprise, in that water was forthcoming from a zone not usually considered a good aquifer. The normally good stratum was penetrated still deeper, but it was not running to form, and yielded no further increase. The semi-negative record will therefore be of great value.

Another proof that water does not always follow a reaction was shown in an instance of the encountering of an old and very corroded iron pipe, perfectly dry, the existence of which no man knew. This was found in the excavation made for the insertion of the leading guide tube at the commencement of a bore. The diviner experienced a break in the continuity of the stratum, and his reaction could have been attributable only to the iron, decomposed and rusted though it was, but near the surface.

Certain kinds of faulting would account for a break in a stratum detected by a diviner, and on occasions an aquifer on one side of a fault will be dry on the other side, the fault matter blocking,

or even draining the water to another horizon. Many failures of diviners must be attributable to faulting effects, which are, of course, upsetting to geologists also. The position of a fault line on a map refers only to its position on the surface, and unless the dip of the fault plane is realised and its effect at depth fully realised also, the operator is liable to fall into all sorts of errors. Does a diviner, who perhaps scoffs at geologists and all things geological, appreciate this? He should examine some of his failures very closely, and perhaps a geological friend will assist in explaining something of the structure of the interior of the earth.

It should not be imagined that subterranean water, detected by diviners, exists as clear-cut streams, and it is necessary only to pierce such streams and all one's problems are solved. Fissures of all widths of course exist, and it is through these that water from the surface, where it is received from rain and cloud condensation, penetrates to such strata as will absorb it. An absorbent stratum outcropping will directly receive rainfall, and may indicate that it is charged with water to capacity when springs appear along an impervious layer. In case it is imagined that a fully charged stratum is literally streaming wet, it should be stated that one such well-known absorbent stratum, namely, chalk, is dry to the touch in its best water-producing zones. Chalk is a well-fissured formation, and sooner or later a fissure will be encountered. It may contain a volume of water, and it may not. How would a diviner feel he had located a running stream, and not a dry fissure? Even a geologist is by no means certain that a bore will yield water in chalk, at any rate in the quantity he may require. The presence of a bore may cause a flow towards it of water, but he may never obtain the desired yield. And yet chalk is perhaps our most favoured formation for the ability to collect water, owing to the vast areas and great thicknesses of it outcropping in square miles, and bottomed by another formation through which no water will pass. Nevertheless, there are many failures in chalk bores, and frequent disappointing results, but at times water in plenty is forthcoming. At the other extreme there are cases where a small town or country estate has to rely upon a stratum of only a few feet in thickness and sandwiched in between great thicknesses of impervious formations, the water finding its way from some distant outcrop. Would a diviner perhaps be aware of the few feet of usefulness, and would his apparatus be sensitive enough? The writer has his doubts. Unless a diviner is also a geologist it is certain to be difficult for him to visualise the conditions below his feet, unless perhaps he is searching for an insignificant quantity of water, of possibly doubtful quality, and at depths of, say, less than 30 feet. He may find water and be a success, if no consideration is paid to quality. He may put down a well in dense

clay, and from various causes, such as condensation, seepage, direct inflow from surface rainwater, produce water, but unless certain all-the-year-round conditions of quantity and quality are fulfilled, the well is not a success.

So much divining literature neglects to state the quantity of water produced when a well or supply is labelled a success. The writer knows one such instance, where a cottage had depended on a well which, in the standard phraseology, had never been known to fail. And not it had, for it had sufficed for many years to supply the requirements of two old people and their dog. The property was desired by a City business man for his week-end or country cottage. It was to be equipped with six bathrooms, and garaging and wash-downs for four cars, and the water would be pumped by automatic electric pump. A yield and recovery test carried out by the writer quickly removed the water, and it took seven days to recover a quantity equal to half a bucketful, and but for the existence of a considerable volume of rainwater collected in a large underground storage tank and a pump already installed for this soft water supply, there would have been trouble. The locality was a bad one for water at the depth reached by the well, and it was merely a hole in the clay upon which this house depended. The prospective purchaser did not wish to have a bore put down from the bottom of the well to the known water-bearing horizon below the clay, or even considered any further works of water supply. As a City man he no doubt believed that water was already there sufficient for his requirements, for he had been told the truth—in a way—that the water supply was ample, and had never been known to fail. No doubt the finder and sinker had claimed a success. The geology of the area was perfectly straightforward, but no sinker should stop in clay just because his feet get wet. It cannot be done in dealings with commercial undertakings, and in such cases it is wiser for both diviner and geologist to give mutual assistance if success is to be expected.

Too much importance cannot be stressed on the necessity of the keeping of really accurate records of wells and bores, no matter whether the result is negative. Records should always indicate the date, and a very accurate site plan is essential. Strata records should always be kept, and the Governing Body of British Dowsers should insist upon these records being tabulated on a standard form, and a copy sent to them for filing and reference and be accessible for all who are interested or are desirous of obtaining information. Records of this kind, when submitted to the Geological Survey, are closely scrutinised, the details checked, the information inserted on maps, and indeed, corrections made when maps and literature are revised. Reasons for failures, and unexpected successes are considered, until the ultimate data are made available for everybody. It would be

for the Governing Body of British Dowsers to decide whether they should submit their own records to the Geological Survey; certainly the latter would appreciate all information, reliably obtained and vouched for, to be available for the nation. Water supply findings are now, as never before, too valuable to permit any records of them, whether positive or negative, not to become public property. A diviner who ignores such information as is available concerning the water supply possibilities of an area, whether he obtains the information from Geological Survey publications, or from local gossip in the area concerned, is losing an opportunity of so tuning his mind and thoughts to the problem in hand as may lead him to give erroneous findings when undertaking a survey.

MORE ABOUT THE ACTION OF THE ROD

By W. E. BENHAM, B.Sc., F.Inst.P.

"(1). I should like to thank Mr. Maby for his detailed remarks and regret if anything I may have said may have savoured of unwarranted mysticism to him. If I appeared to favour any theory of the rod's motion, all I subscribed to was the idea that the rod really did move—therefore something must be moving it "either directly or indirectly." I am far from suggesting that the muscles play *no* part (they serve to *restrain* the motion of the rod). I must, however, confess that in claiming that the motion of the rod or pendulum is caused by impulsion by reflex tremors, Mr. Maby seems somewhat unconvincing. He made no reference to my findings that the rod reactions were obtained through gloves or folded notebooks, which results seem to me to militate against the idea that any muscular changes observed are in the nature of causes of the reactions. To confuse cause and effect is one of the greatest dangers in scientific work. With my admittedly brief acquaintance with the rod all I pretended to shew was that such and such a supposed cause does not satisfy all the experimental results and must therefore be abandoned. I now find, on further reading, that my findings were, did I but know it, fully anticipated by Raoul Montadon (I quote from a pending monograph by Auber³) who writes: "For us, this

hypothesis of unconscious muscular reaction is insufficient, if account be taken of the following:—

(a) That the pendulum can be made to move without there being any material contact between the operator's fingers and the thread of suspension.

(b) That if the two ends of the rod are introduced, loosely, into a sort of sheath, the two sheaths being held in the hands, the rod will turn in these sheaths.

(c) That wooden rods, lin. thick, break like glass at the moment of reaction, which is incompatible with such action—obviously weak—as would be provoked by unconscious muscular movements.

(d) That the movements of the pendulum—at times of fantastic speed and vigour—are not hindered by the interposition of a thick woollen glove, together with several thicknesses of cloth between the thread of suspension and the operator's fingers."

"In view of these facts," he goes on to say, "how is it possible to admit, logically, any direct action of the muscles on the object set in motion? This would be really nonsense. We are therefore compelled, on the sole basis of experimental facts, to declare incomplete the theory of unconscious muscular movements." The author of the above goes on to admit that in certain cases a supplementary muscular action may lend a hand to the initial cause of movement. Then there are the experiences of Mrs. Pim, as related in Th. Besterman's "Water Divining" and again in the *Journal*.⁴ "When 43lb. weight was attached to the rod and I stood over the spring, I could raise the bucket quite two feet off the ground at arm's length. I could not even lift the bucket when not over the spring. My theory is that it is some force coming up from the spring that turns the rod." A little later on in Mrs. Pim's article mention is made of a test made by a doctor. Taking Mrs. Pim's bared arms in his hands he found no muscular movement whatever when the rod turned, but when Mrs. Pim turned the rod of her own accord in a place where there was no spring, he said that every muscle in the arms was moving.

(2). On this point I am inclined to agree with Mr. Maby's present view that the demonstration experiment of "sensitising an insensitive" is not satisfactory from a strictly scientific standpoint, though would submit that the two parties to the experiment were entirely controlled in their movements and I, personally, was quite certain that the result obtained was genuine.

(3). Mr. Maby rather suggests here that my own experimenting may have been prejudiced. But I (a mere beginner) have no axe of any sort to grind. I gripped the rod carefully and noted the results with controlled indifference. If it be true that the horizontal position is alone stable, what would happen supposing the whole body were inclined forward? Clearly, Mr. Maby must

mean that the rod be balanced at right angles to the trunk. If this be inclined forward or backward his balance position would no longer be horizontal. I am afraid Mr. Maby's ideas would seem a little surprising also to Mr. B. Tompkins, whose article in an early number shows him holding the rod in a vertical position with the apex downwards.⁵ This he describes (p. 79) as "the proper method," and from his photo it seems that the rod is at least slightly *sprung*. I am afraid that in regard to the freedom of choice as to balance position I remain entirely unrepentant. It is easy enough, with proper grips and orientation of the wrists, to cultivate balanced, sprung positions differing from the horizontal, and, as stated in my article, results were carefully confirmed; they were also repeated by another dowser. There is nothing special about an exactly horizontal position from the point of view of balance, and in claiming the contrary Mr. Maby has cited no rational support. I may as well repeat here my original point that the object of the work described was not primarily to develop a dowsing technique, but to experiment with the rod solely with a view to scientific information. However, readers need not take my word for the possibility referred to; there is a recent picture of a dowser actually in the process of finding water where he has the rod inclined upwards at some 20° to the horizontal.⁶ When he got over the water the rod-reaction was *down*. This means, on my hypothesis, that the neutral plane over the water was inclined at more than the above 20° to the horizontal. A good water supply in the desert resulted, and I think it is a matter for congratulation that the virtues of the rod have been so impressed upon the military authorities (the officer dowsing was a South African airman). I am, however, not disposed to attach undue importance to my "neutral plane" idea at the present juncture.

(8). Again, I feel that Mr. Maby is imputing to me a boldness which rather belongs to all those who claim a noxious effect above streams; for it is only by performing a single dowsing test of a kind in general use that we take the further step of shewing that if radiations are harmful to a person facing *downstream* (and directly over the stream) then they are beneficial if the change to *upstream* is made. If, however, my remarks should have caused apprehension, I would hasten to discourage any practical application thereof, lest there be some fault in the premises on which the single cited test was originally based. At the same time, I can report having made the test of sitting myself directly over a stream passing under my dining room. Facing upstream I have twice spent all night working in this position and felt "better than ever" in the morning. On another occasion, when there had been very little rainfall for some days, no beneficial effect was noted.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the

practical contribution Mr. Maby has made to the art of divining, and of the meticulous care which he is known to exercise in carrying out his technique. If one might venture a generalisation, it is harder for a practitioner to approve a variation in conditions than for an independent research worker. However, if Mr. Maby still insists on his point (3), I should hope to demonstrate the stability of non-horizontally balanced sprung rods at an early meeting of the Society, provided it is not I that have to change my views. For we are all liable to change, whether we care to admit it or not! Witness two examples applying to Mr. Maby himself.

(A.) "And . . . bodily reactions may be demonstrated by means of the familiar diviner's rod or other suitable muscle indicators; the indicator moving more or less strongly *as if* it were being worked by some extraneous force. *Which fact anyone can prove for himself by walking alongside a diviner, and holding one end of his rod while a dowsing reaction is occurring.*" [B.S.D.J. III., 23, 14th line from foot of p. 309. March, 1939.]

The italics (for the concluding sentence) are mine, as are also those for the word "cumulative" in the following.

(B.) "The experimental evidence appears to be *cumulative* against any purely *physical* explanation of 'divining,' as it has also been found to be with regard to telepathy, clairvoyance and other metagnostic processes, . . ." [B.S.D.J. II., 9, p. 85, "Conclusions," September, 1935.]

These quotations clearly shew that the tendency of Mr. Maby's thought over the last 10 years has been from the psychic to the physical, and that what was good enough as a test in 1939 can be referred to as "a very complex and unsatisfactory" experiment in 1943. As intimated earlier, I make no definite hypothesis as to the mechanism of dowsing reactions—I do not yet feel ready to do so. In case, however, it should stimulate thought on the part of more experienced workers I would like to ask one question. One hears and reads much about the human aura, and I am reasonably satisfied as to the genuineness of claims to be able to see it. While still not yet prepared to swear that what I have been able to see under suitable lighting conditions may not have another explanation, I would like to ask, assuming the aura is a genuine manifestation, what is this aura doing while rod or pendulum reactions are going on? The answer to this question may perhaps throw light both on the reality of the aura and the nature of dowsing reactions.

REFERENCES.

1. B.S.D.J. V., 38, 150-155. December, 1942.
2. B.S.D.J. V., 39, 176-180. March, 1943.
3. Title not yet settled.
4. B.S.D.J. II., 11, 158, 159. March, 1936.
5. B.S.D.J. I., 4, pp. 77-83. June, 1934.
6. *Illustrated London News*, March 20th, 1943, p. 324.

To one who has studied Dowsing for more than ten years the revival of the theory of independent movement on the part of the rod and pendulum appears as something like heresy.

To take Mr. Benham's points in turn:—

1. Gloves and folded notebooks would be no barrier to the effects of muscular action beyond having perhaps a slight damping effect.

(a) Contact with the thread of suspension of the pendulum is not essential in order to produce movements of the bob, as the impulses can be transmitted through intervening material to the thread.

(b) Loose sheaths are likewise no barrier, as they are necessarily in contact with the ends of the rod over certain areas, where friction would occur.

(c) The sudden breaking of the one-inch rods would be due to their lack of resilience and consequent inability to resist the peculiar torsional stress produced by the involuntary muscular action.

(d) Thick woollen gloves and layers of cloth would be no bar to the transmission of the impulses, any more than is the skin on the fingers.

(e) The raising of the heavy weight by Mrs. Pim is an example of the well-known fact that *unconscious* muscular effects are often far more powerful than those produced by conscious effort.

3. Mr. Maby has explained to me that what he meant to convey was that for a balanced position the plane of the rod should be in prolongation of the plane of the forearms. And when he spoke of a *horizontal* rod being in equilibrium, he was assuming that the forearms of the dowser would (normally) themselves be horizontal, with elbows resting on the hips—as is most usual when using a modern divining rod. He regrets that this was not made clear in his remarks in *B.S.D.J.* V, 39. This position can be seen to be approximately that in the picture of Mr. Tompkins on page 78 of Vol. I, and is very clearly shown in the photo on page 324 of the *Illustrated London News* of March 20th. No doubt results of a kind can be obtained when the rod is held otherwise, but they will not be the best obtainable.

8. There is a vast body of evidence to show that many people suffer ill effects by sleeping or sitting over running water regardless of the direction of flow. The effects may be due to the water containing minute traces of radioactive matter or to the generally disturbing effects of streams on sensitive persons owing to changes in the intensity and polarity of the field.

For the rest—Mr. Maby's change of opinion on certain points is the natural result of laborious and prolonged experimentation.—EDITOR.

WATER DIVINERS OF INDIA

This article is reprinted from the Journal of March, 1936, Vol. II, 11, being the substance of an address delivered to the Society by Major C. A. Pogson, M.C., on June 12th, 1934.

Major Pogson's standing as a dowser is unique, in that he held an official position as water diviner to the Government of Bombay for a period of four-and-a-half years. Starting in October, 1925, his appointment was renewed from year to year in face of opposition from a section of the Indian Legislative Councillors, and was finally terminated in April, 1930, only for official financial reasons.

During the tenure of his appointment he located water in many parts of India as well as in the Bombay Presidency, 90 per cent. of his successful locations being in tracts where "orthodox" methods had failed. His final percentage of successes was well over 95. At the termination of his appointment he had over 1,700 applications from cultivators on his books.

Major Pogson uses the instrument, invented by his father-in-law, the late Mr. William Norman Pogson, F.R.I.B.A., known as the motorscope, the indications of which depend on the reflex action of the arms and wrists in the presence of a source of radiation.

During the tenure of my appointment as Water Diviner to the Government of Bombay, one of the most interesting investigations that I was called upon to carry out was that of examining the claims of Indians who affirmed that they were able to locate underground water. In an endeavour to discover individuals who really could show a high and useful percentage of success, I not only carried out searching enquiries in regard to the past work of those who presented themselves as candidates, but also put them to a series of practical tests. In addition, a similar procedure was adopted with all individuals of whose reputed abilities in this connection I learnt in conversation with the villagers, although considerable search frequently was necessitated before these men could be traced and found. As a result of my researches, extending over a period of five years, I was fortunate enough to obtain unparalleled opportunities of gaining an insight into the many methods employed by the exponents of this "faculty" in India.

To those who have seen water divining, or "dowsing," as practised in the West, it is common knowledge that some dowsers employ a rod of some description, some a pendulum, while others use their hands alone, without any medium. Whether an indicator is employed or the hands used alone, the fact remains that the arms are utilised by western "dowsers" to enable them to locate underground water supplied. On the other hand, during all my journeyings in India through many rural areas, during which I covered many thousands of miles and investigated the claims of a large number of Indians, I did not happen on a

single case where the arms were employed in the fashion of the West.

An individual professing to be able to locate underground water is known by several names—"panade," "jalshilpi," &c., dependent on the locality and language. Methods employed are not common to localities or regions, as I found evidence of the different systems in various parts of the country.

It may be of interest if I relate my experiences and describe the various methods which came to my notice.

As a result of my investigations I was able to separate these methods into five groups. In compiling lists of individuals I categorised them under these headings, which, as a means of convenience, rightly or wrongly, I named (1) Physical, (2) Botanical, (3) Geological, (4) Astrological, (5) Psychical.

Those I include under (1) Physical—either employed their senses of (a) sight, (b) hearing, (c) smell, or (d) they experienced general muscular or nervous reactions.

The Botanical Group included those who relied on the growth of certain trees or plants to indicate the existence of underground supplies.

The Geological Group consisted of men who examined either (a) relative position or shape of stones, or (b) description of soil.

The fourth Group of exponents professed to be able to locate supplies by astrological calculations; while under the last category came men who employed no appreciable method but appeared merely to exercise an effort of will power or mental concentration. In some cases the performance of work was preceded by certain rituals which varied but, as might be expected, were principally intended for the edification of onlookers. I would here emphasise, however, that whichever method employed, those working by such method invariably adopted the same procedure; hence immediately an individual commenced operations it was possible at once to classify him. I will next proceed to describe the *modus operandi* of individuals falling under the different groups.

(1). PHYSICAL

(a) *Using sense of sight.*—On being shown the field or area in which it was desired to locate a water supply, men employing this method walked to various points, stopping occasionally to scan the ground surface at some distance from them, frequently shading their eyes with their hands, sometimes erect and sometimes bending as if to obtain a view of the surface from a different angle. These men stated that they were able to see the water reproduced on the ground surface, sometimes as if it was a surface stream or sometimes in pool-like form. Having observed the water in this manner, they would make a mental note of its position by observing any objects on the ground coinciding with

the water "reflection," and then walk direct to the spot. These men, without exception, informed me that it was considerably easier to work on a bright, sunny day than on a cloudy one, as the "picture" showed up far more distinctly in the sunshine.

(b) and (c). *Using senses of hearing and smell.*—The procedure in this case consisted of going to various points about twenty feet apart, there lying flat on the ground and placing either an ear or the nose close to the ground, dependent on which method was employed, and listening intently or smelling carefully. These men claimed that they were able to hear the water flowing or smell dampness, as the case might be. The more zealous and conscientious exponents of these methods used to crawl all over the area to be prospected, listening or smelling at frequent intervals. As burrs and other prickly things abound, it can well be imagined that the bearded ones emerged from their survey looking very much the worse for wear. In the case of those who employed their sense of hearing, I noticed on several occasions that where a man appeared to be in doubt, he used to make a small hole, pour a handful of water into it, wait until it had soaked in, and then listen again. They explained this action by saying that the presence of a little *isolated* dampness served to amplify the sound of the underground water.

Both these classes were unable to work in the monsoon or after rainfall, apparently because, owing to the general moisture, the sound was so diffused as to make it impossible to locate its exact site.

(d). *Muscular or nervous reactions.*—These men walked all over the area to be prospected, and when they came on spots where they claimed supplies existed, expressed its reaction by various body movements—some trembled all over, some shook at the knees, others shivered violently. One man I remember shook and shivered so violently that he frequently fell down and was rendered incapable for the remainder of the day. Considerable investigation of this man revealed that he shook more often than not where there was no water, and his percentage of success was very low. His career as a water diviner, as far as I was interested, was cut short one day when, after a more than usual violent agitation, he fell down in a fit. First aid was rendered, and, on regaining consciousness, he declared that a murder had been committed on the spot where he fell and that he had been assailed by the evil spirits which haunted the spot!

(2). BOTANICAL GROUP

Those operating by this method proceeded to search for certain trees or plants said to grow over subterranean water. Some of them merely accepted the presence of a particular tree or plant as indicating the existence of water; others, however, relied on a certain grouping or formation of the specified plants, &c., and

unless this existed, returned a negative report. There was nothing very mysterious in this method.

(3). GEOLOGICAL GROUP

These men were sub-divided into two classes; one, which might be called the Primitive, and the other a more advanced or scientific edition. In the former case, individuals merely searched for certain shaded stones or stones with a certain "feel." In the latter case, candidates provided themselves with a magnifying lens. They dug a series of small holes about six inches deep, and extracting some soil from the bottom of these holes, arranged these samples in order. Each sample was then subjected to close scrutiny through the lens, and the prediction of the existence of water or the reverse was based on the result of these inspections.

(4). ASTROLOGICAL GROUP

The modus operandi of these savants was to retire beneath the shade of some nearby tree and there to work out obtruse astrological calculations, based on position of planets, names of owner of land, of father's name, of village, shape of field or area, situation of same in relation to owner's home and several other factors. Occasionally some bystander would be asked to name some animal or object, and this was duly incorporated in the calculation, and after a lengthy period a decision was announced. Frequently only a certain corner of the field or restricted portion of the area was indicated by the man as a result of his deliberations, and he would then proceed to combine the geological method with his own, inasmuch as with a lens he would examine the soil in the indicated restricted area.

Before passing on to my last Group I would mention that instructions for finding water by the three previous methods are laid down in ancient writings of the country, and I believe I am correct in stating that in a college of one of the Indian States there exists, or used to exist, a special class of instruction to impart this knowledge to prospective water diviners.

I now come to my last Group.

(5). PSYCHICAL

These men, on arrival at the scene of operations, stood for a few moments in deep thought, and then perhaps would walk direct to a certain spot, which they indicated as being the correct one for a well. Unfortunately, I did not happen on many of these men, and those I did all spoke different languages, which served to complicate the situation as far as my investigations were concerned. In spite of protracted conversations and enquiries I was unable to elicit any particulars beyond that immediately they concentrated on the matter, then at once, "they just knew" whether or not water existed. In an endeavour

to find some working basis, one day, while conveying one of these men to a field where a well was required, I suddenly asked him what was the shape of the field. After a moment's thought he drew a shape on his hand with his finger. It so happened that he was a complete stranger to the locality; further, no one but myself knew to where I was going and I myself had not been to the field. On arrival I observed that the man had correctly foretold the shape, which was unusual, hence easy to identify with his diagram. Subsequently I made a practice of springing the same question on all candidates. I found that men employing other methods were totally unable to solve the problem; on the other hand, when the question was put to men falling under the Psychical Group they were able to supply information, but not with the same accuracy as the first man.

I may be pardoned if I digress at this point to relate a brief incident. Two or three years ago, while on the sands of Brittany, I was watching two dogs at play. The game finished; one dog stood still a moment and then made off hurriedly towards the sea, then a long distance out. I presumed that he was going to have a bathe, but no! he galloped direct to a spot, very near the sea, and there commenced to dig a hole. This stirred my curiosity, and I went to see why the animal was doing this. The hole was about six inches deep, and, to my surprise, I saw a spring bubbling up from the bottom. Dipping my finger straight into it to avoid the sea water seeping in from the sides of the hole, I discovered the spring was sweet water. At once there flashed into my mind the picture of another very different scene—a boiling sun, parched fields and a gaunt figure with matted hair and bedaubed forehead, who stood for a moment and then walked direct, without any sign of hesitation or doubt, to his selected spots with, as it proved, a high percentage of accuracy. It was with real regret that I learnt that he had fallen a victim to cholera, for I held many a conversation, instructive and interesting, with this mystic, the original of my No. 5. Group.

One mysterious example which came to my knowledge and which perforce I had to classify under my last Group, deserves special mention. I had been called in by the custodians to investigate why a well in a temple precinct, where the supply had never been known to fail, had suddenly become dry. After an examination I gave it as my opinion that the spring supplying the well had altered its course by a few feet (probably owing to a new fissure opening up as the result of some earth movement). I marked its new course and suggested means of re-tapping it. My activities had been watched by countless people assembled on neighbouring house tops, and when I pegged out what, in my opinion, was the new course of the spring, I heard sounds of astonishment from the assembled sightseers, and enquired the

reason thereof. I was informed that the line was as indicated by an old man of low caste, who dwelt in the town and, furthermore, who had indicated the exact position without even going near the temple. This aroused my curiosity, and I waited outside the temple walls while search was made for him in the bazaars. He was brought before me and I questioned him in regard to his method. Considerable questioning was necessitated, as his explanations were hard to follow, but briefly his procedure was as follows: While allowing a little dust to trickle through his fingers he recited a few "mantrums," after which he rubbed his right hand slowly three times across his left shoulder and held it up in front of him. He then concentrated his mind on the place where water was desired and affirmed that he saw a picture of the place on his hand. Then, by moving his hand nearer or further from his eyes or to the right or left, he stated that he was able to see, mirrored on his hand, the surroundings of the original picture. Similarly, by dropping his hand below the level of his eyes, substances and rock structures below ground surface came into view. He added that he had located water by his method at a distance of 40 miles from him. Independent witnesses testified that the man was speaking the truth, and mentioned various examples of his work. In the case of the temple there was a possibility that he might have been operating under the "sight" method; hence I decided to put his method to test on the spot. Before coming to the temple I had been working at a village some seven miles distant and had there located a site for a well. I had made the journey by car and not more than one hour must have elapsed since I left the village. He knew the village, so I requested him to inform me whether he considered water existed under a certain field. Turning himself in the direction of the village, he carried out the procedure as above described, and eventually got the place in his "field of vision." Then, by dropping his hand and moving it slowly about he announced that supplies did exist at a certain spot below what appeared to be a milestone. Somewhat intrigued, I bade him jump into the car, accompany me to the place and point out the exact spot. On arrival I found that, unbeknown to me and since I had left the village, a small brick and cement pillar had been erected over my marking peg, and this he indicated as being what he took to be a milestone. Before seeing the white pillar I did consider the possibility that the man had read my thoughts, but the fact of the pillar seemed to rule this out. Unfortunately, the man was very old and feeble, and soon after I heard that he was dead. He informed me that the "gift" came to him suddenly after an accident, and that he was only able to "see" up to a depth of 40 feet below ground surface. I much regretted that I did not have the opportunity to put this man to further strict tests.

So far I have confined my remarks to individual efforts, but the record would not be complete unless I mention three other methods of a collective nature, a few examples of which I happened upon and which savoured of superstition.

Five old inhabitants of a village assemble at the place where a well is desired; one remains in the centre of the area while the other four retire to different points. After solemn reflection they meet and compare notes. If the personal opinions of three out of the five are in agreement that a certain portion of the field is favourable, then the owner is advised to dig a well thereon. If there is not a majority opinion then the owner is told no water exists.

Another method consists in selecting a small child of the village by some means I have never discovered. The child is conducted with due state to the field, given an article and instructed to place it where he chooses. I was unable to ascertain what was supposed to happen if water did not exist, and the only reply I received was that the owner had decided in any case to dig a well and merely wished to be shown a site.

The last and final method which came to my notice was of an amusing nature and in which a goat played the leading character. The goat, duly adorned and solemnly admonished, is taken to the field and left to his own devices. The owner of the field returns after an interval, and the spot where stands the goat when first sighted is the site for a well.

I came upon examples of these methods only in very remote places, and as far as I was able to ascertain, villagers themselves, credulous as they are, did not appear to put much faith in the schemes, and, needless to say, I did not hear of any successful results obtained from these efforts.

From a consideration of the individual systems it will be seen that although eight methods are practised, these naturally fall into two divisions—(1) Those in which personal effort is the operating basis; (2) Those in which reliance is placed on the evidence of other factors. Although I obtained direct evidence of successful results by men operating under the Botanical, Geological and Astrological Groups, the percentage of success was so small that after due trial and investigation I ruled out all those operating by these systems, as it was clear that no reliance could be placed on these men. In those cases where success was obtained, the water found was at very shallow depth. Percentage of success obtained by individuals relying on personal factors was considerably better, and I investigated these cases for a long period, but eventually formed the opinion that they, too, were not sufficiently reliable to enable results to be guaranteed.

It is of interest that men produced the best results in their own localities or where sub-soil conditions were similar to those

to which they were accustomed. I noticed that they appeared unable to locate water situated at deep levels.

It may be of interest if I add a few comments relating to the methods of which I had the most experience, *i.e.*, those in which the senses are employed. It has been suggested to me that these men actually have a *mental* appreciation of the presence of water and that this appreciation is so vivid that the sense of it is communicated to their nerve system with the result that they imagine they "see," "hear" or "smell" the water, in each case dependent on the manner in which they have cultivated their mental faculty. I see no reason, however, to think that this *must* be the case, and it is quite possible, for anyone to test this matter for themselves.

Descend into a well under excavation which has reached some depth and is nearing a flow of water; place the ear to the floor of the well and the sound of the water is distinctly audible. In this case the water may be within a few feet or inches and the sound is amplified by the hollow of the excavation, but I see no reason why certain individuals should not be gifted with acute powers of hearing and be able to distinguish the sounds from a greater distance. Personally, I am inclined to take this view, for whereas the method did produce some success in areas where the sub-strata is such that all supplies consist of currents or isolated flows; yet, on the other hand, it failed lamentably in localities where exist supersaturated conditions where there is little or no movement of water. In this connection the practice of pouring a little water into a hole and listening over it is of interest.

In regard to the sense of "sight"—not only I, but friends accompanying me, to whom I have pointed it out, have frequently observed what appears to be a representation of water on the surface—I do not refer here to mirages or heat or light refraction effects on the brow of hills, but to what seems to exist either as a straight silver streak or in hachures. Frequently have I observed this phenomenon—by taking a few paces forward or backward, or by stooping, the representation disappears, only to reappear when the original position is resumed. By moving to the right or left on a parallel line to the apparent direction of the "picture," it is possible to keep it in view. I have in the past noted the exact position of these "watery" lines and then tested out the place and have found that water does exist thereunder. Ground surface must be fairly smooth and moreover it *must* be dry.

Dampness can always be smelt and again I do not see why certain individuals should not possess a highly developed sense of smell, sufficient for them to detect the presence of subterranean moisture. It is a common experience that a feeling of cold and dampness is experienced when passing through a valley or

low-lying ground where water exists. This is more pronounced in the early morning and in the evening, and is more appreciable in hot, dry climates; possibly a similar feeling is experienced by certain people when passing over subterranean supplies.

In the case of individuals who utilise their senses, my opinion tends to the belief that they are endowed with enhanced power of such senses, while in regard to those categorised in my fifth Group, I can but say that evidence certainly was obtained that successful results were possible by their method. Although the percentage of success was in excess of that which could be obtained by sheer guesswork, yet nevertheless a large percentage of absolute failures was recorded.

I would only add that all tests were carried out in barren and dry tracts where there is a chronic shortage of water and where to sink a well at random is merely courting failure. In view of the fact that the work of these men cannot really be relied upon to any great extent, I came to the definite conclusion that, generally speaking, their activities throughout the rural areas did more harm than good. Unfortunately, this harm is accentuated by the actions of imposters, of which there are large numbers.

There are countless thousands of wells in India (one authority gives the number as over $2\frac{1}{2}$ million) and to anyone who has travelled in the rural areas it is a common sight to see dry and useless excavations. During my water divining career in India I examined several thousands of wells, and I was particularly struck by the fact that the number of useless ones predominated near roads that converged on places of pilgrimage. Enquiries from owners elicited the fact that sites for these wells had been shown by "wayfarers"; further research into this matter brought to light that the unfortunate credulous owners of fields, in return for some act of hospitality, had been promised water in abundance did they but dig at a certain spot. Unhappily, the cultivator proves a ready victim for these imposters, and through their mischievous counsel many thousands of rupees annually must be wasted by the cultivator, who can ill afford a loss which probably plunges him into debt for the remainder of his life.

None but those who have had the opportunity of talking to the villager, the cultivator, of discussing the weather, the crops, the cattle, the simple things that go to make up his life, can guess the bitter disappointment of a waterless well. Those who do understand will sympathise with my oft-repeated advice to the ryot in such cases: "If he returns, this wayfarer, send (!) him down the well to search for his water." Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately for him, the ill-chosen counsellor takes good care not to return to the scene of his activities.

THE ROLE OF THE SAMPLE IN DOWSING

BY THE LATE ABBÉ MERMET

(Translated from the French by R. J. Mackay)

(The following article, in response to an inquiry by the Editor of "*La Radiesthésie Scientifique*," appeared in that journal's issue for March-April, 1937, the year of the Abbé Mermet's decease).

I thank you, Mr. President, for the honour you have paid me by inviting my opinion on the part played in Dowsing by what is conventionally called the sample (*témoin*). The following are the views on this question of a dowser of nearly fifty years' experience.

Firstly, it seems to be a fact of experience that when a substance is placed in the vicinity of another substance of the same nature, up to a certain distance which diminishes with the mass, in such manner as I may illustrate by saying that the maximum distance is of the order of 50cm. for weights of about 200gr., and of an order of 30cm. for weights of about 20gr., there is set up between these two bodies what seems to be a "line of sympathy" which is detectable by my pendulum and, if I hold the latter half-way between the two bodies, it goes into oscillation in a straight line between these two bodies.

I regard this phenomenon as constituting a "law of likes." It is on this fact which rests, for me, the possibility of utilizing the "sample." If, in effect, instead of placing the two bodies on the same horizontal plane, I put one of them, or merely a fragment of one of them, in the hand with which I hold my pendulum, I find that the latter swings in a straight line towards the neighbouring body, which *seems* to attract it after the manner of a magnet. In my prospecting, therefore, if I am looking for copper, I take care to hold a sample of copper in my hand; if I am looking for water, I hold in my hand a tube containing water, or a wet rag, and similarly, for every other substance, I carry in my hand a body of the same nature.

But in which hand should the sample be held? Is it a matter of indifference whether it is placed in the hand which holds the pendulum, or in the other hand? My unhesitating answer is the following: The pendulum and the sample should be held in one and the same hand. It is for me a fact of experience, the reason for which seems to me to be that the pendulum, having as its objective the detection of a body's radiation, and the sample that of reinforcing this radiation, it appears logical that pendulum and sample should be held by the same hand, so as to obtain the maximum of direct and the minimum of parasitic action.

But, some will ask, is it not a fact that many experimentalists hold their samples in the opposite hand from the one which holds the pendulum, and get results? My answer is as follows: If

they obtain good results, it is a case of one or other of two things : either, unconsciously, they are sensitive to the effects of a sort of " mental radiation " which is capable of acting in all directions, or else that they hold the " sample " hand so far from their body that the sample may be no more than an element in a phenomenon of similitude, which must be treated as if the substance in question were on the ground, or on a piece of furniture.

I therefore maintain as a certainty that the sample thus placed in the opposite hand to the one which holds the pendulum has, *by itself*, no value, and has no more effect upon the sensitivity of the operator than would be so if his hand were empty.

Let us now examine what, in a general way, is the importance of the sample, considered by itself. In my opinion it is effective in three ways :—

(i.) It *reveals*, in a given neighbourhood, the presence of a substance identical with that of which the prospector has a fragment in his hand.

(ii.) It *reinforces* the potential of receptivity in regard to the substance to be detected.

(iii.) Finally, it renders possible the making of certain *qualitative analyses*.

Thus, for example, let us suppose that my detector has revealed to me the presence of a seam of coal. But what kind of coal ? To find out, I will place in my hand, in turn (in my pendulum hand), samples of very volatile coal, medium household, and anthracite ; and if the pendulum, for example, gives a normal reaction with the medium household sample only, I shall know that the pendulum comes to rest before medium household coal.

For myself, a sample is indispensable for making a *qualitative* analysis in connection with mineral prospection.

I consider, on the other hand, that for the detection of a hidden body, a sample can most often play only a secondary role. Thus I find the sample effective only on condition that it will be the only factor in operation, which is very rare, and when the mental factor is totally withdrawn. It is the mental factor, then, which plays the main part, whether we are aware of it or not. The effect of the mental factor is much more powerful than that of the sample, to such an extent that the latter is completely overwhelmed by the former when they act together. A simple experiment shows this.

Have a sample of coal in your hand and think only of your coal : if a seam exists in the neighbourhood, the pendulum will react over the coal, and you will be able to pass over a current of water without becoming aware of it. But if, with your coal sample still in your hand, you lose sight at a given moment of your quest for coal, to think about the possibility of the existence of subterranean water, in search of which your mind suddenly veers, you would then be able to pass over a rich carboniferous

seam without feeling it; everything happens as if the cerebral act in question had stifled the physical phenomenon which was previously established between the coal sample and the coal seam.

In practice, then, without discussing here either the nature or the mode of action of the mental factor, my conclusion will be that you must obey the proverb "*Age quod agis*"—Do what you are doing. You must think of what you wish to find, and of nothing but that. On this condition only can the "sample" bring effective help which, as I have indicated above, can sometimes go so far as to render impossible a complete qualitative analysis.

NOTE ON EXPERIMENTS WITH A FORKED TWIG

BY THE REV. M. C. POTTER, SC.D., M.A.,
EMERITUS PROFESSOR IN THE UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

Are we not too much inclined to attribute all the phenomena characteristic of Dowsing to what is termed electricity or magnetism? That is, are there not possibly other influences which are instrumental in causing the motions of the divining rod?

The following experiments with a forked twig may be of interest. A short time ago when holding a forked twig somewhat carelessly, that is, without any auto-suggestion, the rod suddenly jumped up to hit the face on the cheek. Afterwards this was found to happen when walking over an underground water pipe. This encouraged further experiments, and a general receptivity to the phenomena characteristic of Dowsing seemed to be the case.

Holding the rod in the usual manner, it responded, upwards, when approaching a piece of still water. When a zinc garden label was inserted in a slit at the end of the rod this upward motion was exaggerated, but when a piece of copper (a penny) was substituted for the garden label the rod responded downwards; with both the garden label and penny inserted in the slit the rod was neutral. Again placing the zinc in the slit and walking from outside the house (light) to inside the house (less illumination) the rod responded upwards, but with copper in the slit the opposite motion, downwards. Placing a variety of leaves dorsal side upwards at the end of the rod and walking from light to

inside the house the rod responded upwards, but when the leaf was reversed the motion of the rod also reversed.

The experiments cited in *Bio-Electric Potentials* point to the conclusion that the expired breath is electrically negative while the body and clothes are electrically positive (often a relatively high potential) the nude body being about 4 volts positive. The clothing retains its charge and the only method to neutralise this charge is immersion in water. Thus clothes when returned from the wash are with few exceptions electrically neutral.

It may be asked whether these electrical signs of the human body have any influence in the phenomena of Dowsing. Also since the clothes are positive is it possible that they attract electrons from the atmosphere so that a negative electric field surrounds each living being?

Experiments indicate that the gases liberated during fermentation and decomposition are ionised so that any gases liberated in a heap of decaying matter, whether above or under ground, would be ionised.

Electrical Effects accompanying the Decomposition of Organic Matter. Proc. Roy. Soc. B, Vol. 84, 1911.

Electrical Effects accompanying the Decomposition of Organic Matter (2). *Ionisation of the Gases produced during Fermentation.* Proc. Roy. Soc. A, Vol. 91, 1915.

Bio-Electric Potentials. Heffer & Sons, Cambridge. 1/-.

Voltaic Cell considered as a Machine for the Liberation of both Heat and Electricity. Proc. Bournemouth Nat. Sci. Soc. 1941 (Vol. 33).

SOME ELEMENTARY NOTES ON DRUG AND ALUMINIUM TESTING

BY V. D. WETHERED

There is probably no more conclusive way open to the average layman of confirming the action of medicines than with the pendulum. Members of our Society have expressed the desire for articles of an easily understandable and non-scientific kind, and these few notes are intended to meet that need. I became interested in homœopathy some time before I knew anything about dowsing. Apart from its medicinal value, homœopathy should interest the dowser, for the action of homœopathic drugs

is specific to the symptomatology of the patient. The action of homœopathic drugs is discovered by "proving," a system by which they are administered to several healthy persons, and the effects of the drug under test duly noted and compared. There may be and generally are a number of effects or symptoms produced, and a patient who is ill with the exact symptoms of a particular drug should be very quickly cured by its administration.

I have inferred that dowzers *qua* dowzers should be interested in homœopathy. I will tell you what I mean. Once in my early days of using a pendulum, not feeling well, I considered that I would benefit by one of several drugs—five or six, to be precise. So I laid each of these in turn on a table and held my pendulum over them. Over one, and one only, I got a very strong positive swing (clockwise for me; I am, incidentally, left-handed). On looking up the symptomatology of that drug I found it described my symptoms exactly. In fact, if I had been asked to write down at that particular time how I felt, I could not have done better than copy out what I read. A small incident, perhaps, but it is by such small experiences that one gains confidence in one's pendulum.

Another similar experience may be worth recording. Recently, more out of curiosity than anything else; I tested my pendulum over a number of homœopathic remedies. I was rather surprised to find that I obtained the strongest indication by far for Hepar Sulph, a drug which I would never have thought of for myself. When I looked it up I found that certain of its important symptoms corresponded very closely with my own, but the interesting point was that this drug is in some respects very closely allied to Silicea, which happens to be my constitutional drug. If I had to choose which drug I should rather keep by me, if I could only choose one, I should probably plump for Silicea. Most people, I imagine, have their one constitutional drug which, once found, they would be loath to be without. In my textbook it was stated that considerable difficulty was often found in prescribing in choosing between Silicea and Hepar Sulph. This seems to me a good example of the pendulum confirming an established clinical fact.

Choice of Pendulum

The pendulum I find most suitable for testing *over* a drug is a spherical one of whalebone ivory, weighing $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and with a string length of $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. A pear-shaped pendulum, I find, is not so reliable and is apt to give a negative swing where the spherical pendulum is definitely positive. I have a thin torpedo pendulum which is quite useless for this kind of testing and has a strong negative tendency. Why is this, I wonder? Dowsing *over* a sample can, of course, be equally well employed for allopathic

medicines or foods, but it is thought advisable to place them in cork-stoppered vials to obviate any possible effects of differently shaped bottles, and so bring comparisons closer.

Of my early pendulum days I will recount one other little experience which may be of some interest. I was in rather a highly strung state, and I fancied that one particular drug would probably get rid of the condition. Assuming that such a nerve condition was closely associated with the brain, I held the drug against the side of my head and the pendulum (in my other hand) over the table with nothing on it. The pendulum seemed quite ready to swing merrily round positively, but imagine my surprise when, after about half-a-dozen swings, the nervous tension in my head suddenly collapsed, almost as if a wire had snapped. It was unmistakable and quite unexpected, as I was watching the pendulum intently for any indications it would give. The highly strung feeling, which admittedly was temporary and of little consequence, was gone, and the manner of its going suggested a sudden and instantaneous drop in electrical potential, which I believe (if in unscientific terms) it was. The question arises as to what part the pendulum had in this effect, if any. I believe it played a definite part, and suggest that its effect might be compared with that of a condenser, which "shorted across" as the potential was built up. Again no claim is made to a scientific explanation, but it was evidently a case of "close tuning."

This rather unusual experience does perhaps help to explain rings carried for rheumatism, and even suggests some far-off age when the physician will say, "Here are your medicines, A, B and C. Keep A and B in your waistcoat pocket for three weeks and C one day a week for three weeks. You can bring them back to me afterwards and I shall not have to charge you for them." Far-off, and perhaps a bit far-fetched, as well. I wonder! Certain electrical treatment is highly suggestive of such possibilities.

Dangers of aluminium

One other simple test which may have practical value in the home is that for aluminium poisoning. It is fairly well known by now that aluminium vessels used for cooking may have a bad effect on health, but owing to the idiosyncratic character of aluminium poisoning, it is not easy to nail down any one symptom to it without some method of testing. The writer feels strongly on this subject, being particularly susceptible to the metal himself. Anybody who has had abdominal trouble is more than usually liable to bad aluminium effects. Constipation, sometimes alternating with diarrhoea, is a common symptom, but by no means the only one. It is more than likely that the whole digestive tract will be affected, and in the writer's experience both eyesight and heart have suffered. Eczema is another

insidious effect. Constant colds are a common concomitant of aluminium infection, and, as Dr. Guyon Richards says in his book, *The Chain of Life*, lack of energy is nearly always present. In fact, one of the worst effects of an aluminium taint is the damping down of the whole nervous system.

A method of testing for aluminium, for which, incidentally, the writer is indebted to a distinguished member of the Society, is to place an aluminium sample at one end of a rule and the hand of the person being tested at the other end. The edge of a table will serve equally well. The dowser can then find where his pendulum will beat across the rule and at right angles to it. If at the centre of the rule there is no aluminium infection present, but if, on the other hand, the balance point is between the centre of the rule and the aluminium sample, infection is present, the degree depending on the nearness of the balance point to the sample. Aluminium is always present in the body, but not activated as happens with poisoning, which explains the normal beat at the centre of the rule. Anyone suffering from this poisoning is well advised to give up using aluminium vessels in the kitchen. If at times this cannot be done, potentised aluminium or alumina, or even lead, will antidote the effect. Dr. M. L. Tyler's observations about aluminium emanations should be of interest to dowzers, for she has recorded how these have been given off by aluminium-plated radiators, which have produced paralytic and other aluminium symptoms in sensitives.

According to Dr. Le Hunte Cooper, who has made a special study of aluminium pathogenesis, the Army discontinued the use of aluminium for cooking and water bottles many years ago, and the Navy decided to give up similar equipment when he was last in touch with the Admiralty. He was also able to persuade some of the larger passenger steamship companies to give up aluminium in the galleys of their ships for many years past, and he has stated that none of our railways use it in our trains. Different people are not unnaturally susceptible to aluminium in different degrees, and many people no doubt suffer no obvious ill-effects. But there is always the chance, if not the likelihood, that nervous energy, if nothing else, is being impaired. And, incidentally, water boiled in an aluminium vessel and placed in a glass vial, can be tested for infective properties on a rule in a similar way to that described.

REVIEW

RADIESSTHESIA

(Journal of the Medical Society for the Study of Radiesthesia)

Evidently owing to the idea (p. 5) that the defunct Abrams Society had too narrow a basis, the Medical Society for the Study of Radiesthesia launches out on a much broader basis than might seem entirely wise. "We wished (p. 4) to include anyone who had any fresh ideas which he or she desired to impart to others, on any subject bearing on medicine." Despite the wideness of scope, it is hard to justify the inclusion of the astrological touch on p. 61. The Society's first President, Dr. Ernest Martin, expresses a more restricted aim (p. 14) in discussing the scope of the Society's work: "To study a field of radiation surrounding the body, in the normal state, and in relation to morbid conditions." After mentioning Abrams and a number of followers, including Sir James Barr, one time President of the B.M.A., who held the view that Abrams and Almoth Wright were the two greatest medical geniuses of the century, the Editorial goes on to say (p. 5) that "on the whole the Society tends towards the study of these radiations by the use of the human body itself." This use of the body as, so to speak, its own instrument, was taught strongly by Abrams. It is in line with sound scientific method so long as the "instrument" is sensitive enough, as in addition to reducing complexity of apparatus it generally achieves results under just those conditions likely to be met with in practice. A number of points (outside medicine) well known to dowzers conclude the Editorial.

Then follows an article by the President (Dr. W. Guyon Richards) entitled "Diagnosis and Treatment," in which he describes his use of the pendulum in a diagnostic method in which the patient's hand (or blood specimen, serum, &c.) is "balanced" on a 48-inch board against a specimen of "gland, organ or chemical," the "vortex" where both radiations are of equal intensity giving a gyration of the pendulum. The individual nature of the pendulum reactions is mentioned, and for Dr. Richards amber appears to act as a bar; perhaps, as Mr. A. A. Cook would say, this means that he is suffering from some "personal disadvantage." Dr. Richards favours an ivory bob with a suspension of amber silk. Case histories are cited and a rather prolific array of remedies against each patient. Rules for the selection of a first class, as distinct from a mediocre, remedy are given in a warning note on p. 11. The scientific basis of these measurements is vague at the present time. The French discovery that blood, serum, letters, photographs, personal possessions, change hourly with the conditions of their owner is amply confirmed (p. 13). It might be interpolated here that

there are certain types of measurement which do *not* appear to change. Both measurements are valuable. Those which only give the state of the patient at the time the photograph (say) was taken serve to provide the doctor with a life-case-history of the patient if photographs from babyhood are available.

Dr. Martin (p. 14) considers that "the phenomena we are studying have the same origin (electrical) in the photo-electrical states of the body." The field of energy round the body "can be studied (p. 15) by galvanometric measurement or by the French pendular method." His early work during the last war makes interesting reading. The effect of a small magnet in reversing body polarity (p. 18) has been confirmed by the reviewer; it might suggest the existence of magnetic particles of opposite polarities, but actually this interpretation is ruled out, as it does not matter which pole of the magnet is nearest the body.

Dr. Jensen's "Treatment through the Sympathetic System" describes how frequently the cause of a headache may lie at the foot of the coccyx, or occipital symptoms be found corresponding to supra scapular neuritis. When one spot is "corrected" (as by injection) the other spot comes round immediately to "healthy." [Similarly, the connections between the hand (Bovis "hand" diagram) and various organs can definitely be established, and a man may be treated for his stomach via the middle finger of his left hand.] Shock Therapy is mentioned as "here to stay," on p. 29.

Dr. Dudley D'A. Wright's article (p. 43) includes an interesting account of Mitogenetic rays. He also mentions a number of points, more familiar to dowsers than to doctors, including a description of Dr. Lintott's experiments (1933).

Dr. Richards's article (p. 32) on brain centres is of very great interest, but space forbids a description in abstract.

W.E.B.

NOTES AND NEWS

Mr. Barton-Hart, of Boston, Massachusetts, has sent us the following account of a peculiar form of dowsing instrument: "As a curiosity I will describe a Divining Rod used by an old prospector, Jacques MacPherson, of Montana, U.S.A. My informant is an ex-Texas Ranger (sort of Mounted Police).

"This peculiar instrument resembled a 5ft. length of gas pipe (iron or steel tubing), about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. outside diameter, capped at each end, and was held by merely hooking the fingers under it so that it hung in even balance, the thumb not touching it. The user merely walked along over the land and when over gold one end or the other would dip in a most decided manner. MacPherson refused two hundred dollars for it.

"The construction of this odd autoscope was as follows: The centre of the tube was stopped and two sliding weights of grey (probably Brabbitt) metal intensified any initial movement of the user if that movement was upwards or downwards. The secret was discovered by some men who found out the maker, bought one and dissected it.

"I have one that I made up to see how it would act, and the thing developed a sideways movement that I can well imagine could have been used as a horizontal direction index in the desert land where MacPherson prospected. He was very successful, and when his drinking had exhausted his funds could always obtain credit in Butte, Montana (where he was known), to start him out with supplies—because he always brought back the gold. One day he came into the general store and asked the proprietor 'Have ye got plenty o' change?' 'Reckon I've got all you want; how much gold have you?' 'Oh, about 12lb.'—and so he had. He would carry his rifle in one hand over his shoulder and his 'Divining Rod' in the other, and prospect as he trudged along very nicely. But I don't fancy it would be convenient as a pocket-piece."

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The following interesting letter has been sent us by Messrs. Kelly and Bennett, of Longford, Artesian Well Borers and Diviners of Spring Water, Coal and Minerals, who work on the principle of No Water—No Charge:

Mr. Bennett has been divining for about 25 years very successfully, and he cannot understand why it is that when a Diviner walks against a spring the rod turns up, and when he walks with it, it turns down. He could not walk up or down the centre of a spring and keep a tight grip of the rod. It would take too much out of him. He has never found the rod to turn down for water. There are some things it always turns down for, but never water.

I think I mentioned in my first letter that we have proposed to the County Manager for Longford to give the town a supply of 10,000 gallons of spring water per hour under our guarantee. That is, if we do not produce the guaranteed supply we do not receive a penny for our work.

For this scheme we traced a spring from the west of Longford under the town to Lough Owel, near Mullingar, a distance of approximately 35 miles as the spring flowed. The width varied from 18 yards to 180 yards. This survey was carried out in two days.

He has tested eggs with the pendulum for fertility and sex and has had 100 per cent. success. Three friends of his who were put on diets by their doctors asked him for his advice. In each case the foods he recommended had been ordered by their doctors, and they were told not to use the ones that Mr. B. divined as harmful.

This divining was done with a copper pendulum. With the pendulum he has located people in Irak and other places over a map. All he requires for this is a photo of the person. I took a snapshot of a house in the county and asked him to find it for me. He did so in a few minutes.

When boring for oil was proposed at Whitby, Yorkshire, Mr. Bennett wrote to one of the promoters of the scheme, and offered to go over and divine for them free of charge and to pay his own expenses. This offer was not accepted.

He has divined gold, silver, ochre and other minerals, and says the divining of minerals is as simple as divining for water.

Last September we had several divining jobs to do in the south of Ireland, and we stayed for a few days at a friend's place in Emly. As my friends Dr. H. and his wife had never seen a Diviner at work, I asked Mr. B. to see if there was a spring on their lawn the evening we arrived.

He walked across the lawn about 60 to 80 yards from the front of the house when the rod went up, and the following conversation took place; Mrs. H., "Oh, there is a spring there." Mr. B., "Ah, no, there is no spring there." Mrs. H., "But I saw the rod go up." Mr. B., "That was not for water." Then turning to the house he pointed to a corner room, and said "You have gold in that room." I asked Mrs. H. if she had any gold there and she said she had two sovereigns.

We divined water last year on eight of the new Turf Camps, and did a number of divining jobs from Donegal to Cork. The rod Mr. B. uses is made of two light ash plants, as he finds they are tough and do not break so easily. I got him a whalebone ball pendulum from Messrs. Devine and Co., London, but he finds it is not as good as a plain copper one I made for him with a pointed end. I am writing them now about a whalebone rod.

A short article in the *Northern Echo* (Darlington) of March 22nd stated that in their efforts to find water at Thixendale the Norton Rural District Council had called in the services of a water diviner and that boring had taken place at selected points without water as yet having been reached.

At Amotherly in the same district water divining had several years ago proved very successful.

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In *The Star* of March 9th it was reported that Mrs. Phyllis Frosdick, of Ipswich, had been engaged by the Wainford Rural District Council to dowse for water for some projected farm cottages. Apparently Mrs. Frosdick's father, Mr. John Gosling, was a well-known diviner; Mrs. Frosdick's husband, Mr. J. Frosdick, is co-partner in the firm of artesian well engineers, Messrs. John J. Gosling and Co.

In referring to this, the *Daily Mail* stated, with gratuitous mendacity, that Mrs. Frosdick was "Britain's only woman water diviner"; the Editor has not replied to a request for a correction.

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There was a long article in *The Illustrated Carpenter and Builder* of March 19th by Rowland G. Hall on Water Divination; in it the writer stated that he exercises his talent professionally in connection with the waterproofing of underground structures, where it has often proved of great service in detecting springs which had caused, or were likely to cause, flooding of basements, &c.

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In *The Illustrated London News* of March 20th there were pictures of a South African R.A.F. dowser searching for water in the desert.

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There was an interesting letter in *Dight* of April 1st from Stella Myers, in which she stated that she could not dowse herself, but that if a dowser placed his hand upon her shoulder she got the same results as he did.

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The *Sunday Dispatch* of April 11th contained a long but rather muddled article about Radiesthesia as applied to medical diagnosis and treatment.

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Mr. J. J. Morton, of Diep River, Cape Province, who is nearly 80 years old, is a dowser of great ability and experience. An article by him appeared in *B.S.D. J.* III., 20 (June, 1938), whilst in *B.S.D. J.* 36 on pages 82 and 83 there was a note on observations made by him on the effect of certain radioactive mineral particles on trees and shrubs. He has now informed us that the sickly fig tree referred to in the note has now completely recovered

as a result of the treatment he described and he kindly sent us a few dried figs from the tree, which were of excellent quality.

For a long time he has been trying to get the Government interested in water and mineral divining, and has recently addressed a long letter to the Ministry of Mines in which he recorded some of his experiences and observations and his attempts to secure the co-operation of Government officials.

For instance, with the permission of the Conservator of Forests, he traced a reef of strongly radioactive clay (of which he sent us a specimen) from Vredehoek Estate, Cape Town, *via* Devils Peak to Tokai. He showed a specimen of the powdered clay to Professor van Rooijen, of the Department of Radiology, Cape Town, but failed to arouse his interest.

Many years ago he laid out an orchard of fruit trees at Tweespruit, taking advice from the late Mr. H. E. V. Pickstone, a well-known expert, but was surprised to find that after about 18 months some trees became sickly and some died altogether. On investigating the cause he found minute radioactive mineral particles (see *B.S.D.J. V.*, 36, p. 82) in the crown, just above the root, of these trees. The sickly trees recovered after the particles had been removed.

He mentions another example of the same phenomenon in the case of a hedge at Diep River in which there were 26 very unsightly bare spaces. He found that the plants had been killed by the same type of radioactive mineral. After the removal of the particles the empty spaces were replanted and the hedge is now "a perfect picture without a single gap."

He found also that particles of manganese in contact with the roots of plants had the same destructive effect.

He communicated with Dr. du Toit, head of the Stellenbosch-Elsenburg Research Station, about this matter, and on his suggestion approached the Director of Geological Survey. He, in turn, recommended him to address the Officer in Charge of the Soil Survey Division of Chemical Services, Pretoria, whilst expressing a lack of confidence in the claims of mineral and water diviners.

This lack of confidence appears to have been present in an exaggerated degree in the Soil Survey Officer with whom he eventually, in December, 1938, had an interview. Although Mr. Morton was able to show him mineral particles which had been removed by him from two nearly dead oak trees (which subsequently recovered) in the Government Avenue, in the presence of Mr. van Houten, Director of Parks and Gardens, Cape Town, and when blindfolded picked out radioactive particles from amongst a handful of gravel, and gave several other proofs, it was all to no purpose. In fact, Mr. Morton seems to be confronted by the same ignorant obstruction on the part of a certain type of Government official as are dowisers in this country.

CORRESPONDENCE

March 15th, 1943.

To the Editor, *B.S.D. Journal*.

Dear Sir,

I think it will be agreed that one of the more curious and less satisfactory results of the collection of details of methods and indications from dowzers of varying experience and sensitivity has been the great variation in movement of the recording instrument, circumstances of test being the same for each dowzer.

If two dowzers, for example, using in turn the same standard V rod, the classic grip, and renewing the grip after each movement of the rod, pass along the same line over an underground flow, they should, allowing for possible field reversals, obtain identical indications.

In actual experiment, out of a test of a dozen dowzers, I do not think that two would produce exactly the same answer, although the centres of bands and stream might be found approximately in the same place in every case. Variations in sensitivity might produce some apparent displacement of the outer edges of bands, and slight variations of grip or muscular tension might make the difference between a lift or a drop, but I do not think that all the differences which will be found can be explained so simply.

To take an example. In Vol. V., No. 38, Mr. Benham gives a clear diagram of his reactions over a flow. How many who have read that article agree that this is exactly what they normally get? I, for one, know that my diagram of reaction would differ considerably from Mr. Benham's.

I suggest that the collection and comparison of similar diagrams, for each type of indicator, would at least lead to the obtaining of more consistent results, and possibly even a "standard diagram," on which dowzers would only have to enter dimensions to enable any dowzer to deduct the full information about the flow.

It is obviously impossible to test all dowzers over the same flow, but, except for the dimensions, all streams should cause the same sequence of reactions to all dowzers, and a standard should be obtainable to which the majority could conform.

Yours truly,

K. W. MERRYLEES

